

come from pushing seniors and persons with disabilities into HMOs and increasing costs to those who want to stay in traditional Medicare.

Under this plan, Medicare beneficiaries who wish to remain with their own doctors would pay higher premiums (as much as \$1200 a year). Many seniors, who already pay more than 20% of their income for health care, would face even greater cost-sharing when they need home health and other services. And despite the problems older persons face in finding affordable insurance, the proposal would shut 65 and 66 year olds out of Medicare.

Members of the Medicare Commission who supported the Breaux-Thomas plan seem to have faith in a managed care industry that cuts corners on care, reduces benefits, and threatens to pull out of Medicare altogether unless participants pay significantly higher premiums. Those of us who oppose turning Medicare over to the HMOs respectfully disagree. Privatizing Medicare and handing over the medical well-being of millions of senior citizens to for-profit managed care corporations is not what President Lyndon Baines Johnson and Congress envisioned back in 1965. HMOs are not the answer. They are the problem.

As a member of the Democratic Task Force on Medicare, I join with many of my colleagues and experts in the field of health care to support the President's proposal to use 15 percent of the budget surplus to shore up Medicare. This will ensure the program's solvency until the year 2027. We also believe that Medicare is in need of improvement and that seniors deserve increased benefits. That is why we also support seniors' access to affordable prescription drugs and long term care, and a reduction in out-of-pocket expenses.

Medicare participants now have the peace of mind of knowing that health care decisions are made on the basis of sound medical science and not on the financial needs of stockholders and managers. But turning over Medicare to the HMOs is a radical step backward that will only harm seniors living on fixed incomes. If this plan is adopted, seniors will receive fewer benefits, marginal care, and will face rising costs. The Breaux-Thomas proposal is not the answer.

THANK YOU, MAYOR COX

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, the residents of Collierville, TN, will be seeing an historic change in their home this year. Collierville Mayor Herman Wright Cox has decided to step down after serving the residents of this West Tennessee city for 40 years.

Mayor Cox began his career in public service in 1959, first as a city alderman until 1965 when he was elected vice mayor for the city. Then in 1975, he was elected for the first time as mayor.

Since that time, Mayor Cox and the rest of Collierville has seen enormous growth within the community from small businesses to large corporations making the city their home and employing so many Collierville residents.

But aside from the business and industry in the region, the community has made monumental strides in providing a variety of community-based parks and recreation facilities, such as the Collierville Community Center, the

Harrell Performing Arts Theater, Powell Road Park, W.C. Johnson Park, Suggs Park, and the renovation of the town square and the greenbelt walkways.

Mayor Cox also ensured the community a state of the art police station, an award-winning police department, new fire stations and a highly qualified fire department.

Mayor Cox's legacy also includes the prestigious 3-star rating and designation for the town, which speaks volumes of the work he has done for this city.

I commend Mayor Cox for his outstanding contribution to the community, which has thrived under his administration. It is a great loss to the community to have him out of the mayor's office, but it is comforting to know that we can always find him at his service station office if we ever need advice or some guidance as Collierville continues to grow.

TRIBUTE TO CHERYL SETO

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seven young women in my district who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

The Gold Award requires the greatest achievement in career exploration, service to other people, and acquisition of skills. This award is a strong reflection of these youngsters' ability to set goals, to put value into action, to plan, and to relate to the needs of the community.

I wish to recognize Cheryl Seto of Troop 286 in Placentia, CA.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to congratulate and thank Karin Carlson, Director of Program Services for the Girl Scout Council of Orange County for notifying of their achievements. On behalf of the people of the 41st Congressional District of California, let me say that we are all proud of you.

INTERNET ENGINEERING

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-chairman of the bipartisan Congressional Internet Caucus to recognize a major step taken last week to develop the growing Internet economy of the United States.

In my home state of Virginia, just a few hours from the United States Capitol, the University of Virginia took the first step last week toward developing America's most technologically advanced Internet Engineering curriculum.

As we all know, high-tech and the Internet are a major part of the economic growth we have enjoyed these last few years. Over the next five years high-tech will create 1.8 million new jobs in the U.S.—1.8 million.

Because of an innovative public/private partnership, and thanks to the generosity of Cisco Systems and MCI/Worldcom, which have just

donated over \$1 million in new equipment to the University, UVA is now creating VINT-Lab, the premier high-tech training facility of its kind.

You see, Mr. Speaker, the thing about creating nearly two million new, high-tech jobs is that no good comes of it unless there's qualified people to fill them. What the folks at UVA and Cisco are trying to do is make sure that the young people of today are prepared to build the economy of tomorrow.

I think we'll be seeing a lot more public/private partnerships like this in the future, and as co-chairman of the Internet Caucus, I will certainly be working to promote them.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL
OF VALOR ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 46, the "Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act." Our nation's firefighters, enforcement officers, and other emergency services personnel put themselves at risk every day to assure the safety of the general public. Just as our military personnel are recognized for extraordinary acts of valor in the effort to preserve peace abroad, so should our domestic safety officers be recognized for their bravery above and beyond the call of duty.

Last year, Members of Congress witnessed an extraordinary act of valor as Capitol Hill police officers gave their lives defending the Halls of Congress from a gunman intent on shooting his way into Congress. It was a potent reminder of the risks every public safety officer face each and every day. I never will forget that sacrifice and by supporting this legislation I hope to draw more attention to sacrifices of the hundreds of thousands of public safety officers that serve our country.

In Delaware, I am particularly proud of the work of our firefighters because most of them serve the state voluntarily. Likewise, Delaware's police officers often find themselves squarely in the sights of a criminal's handgun, which prompted me to support legislation to provide all of Delaware's police force with bulletproof vests.

Again, I urge every Member to come together and support the "Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act." It symbolizes honor and recognition that is long past due.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE DAYTON-SOEHLKE-
OHLHORST POST # 5350 OF THE
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS IN
QUOGUE, NEW YORK

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the Dayton-Soehlke-Ohlhorst Post #5350 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Quogue, Long Island as they celebrate the 53rd Anniversary of the Post's founding.